

Our Beliefs

When Youth Thrive, We All Thrive.

This central truth grounds our work and is underscored by a powerful cycle of thriving.

All youth have potential, but too many lack the opportunities, relationships, and conditions to thrive, putting our democracy and economy at risk.

Our public education system is too essential to fail. It holds a uniquely important place in the web of people, places, and possibilities in young people's lives.

Every community contains a broader learning ecosystem that is too important to ignore. Real learning happens in real life — in the myriad spaces where young people live, learn, work, play, and contribute.

The boundaries of our evolving education architecture must formalize the commitment to anytime/everywhere/never-too-late learning — moving beyond the traditional walls that define the school day, school year, and age of graduation — to help young people develop the competencies and skills they need to navigate and succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Our Commitments

Together, we must position learning ecosystems as civic infrastructure — not supplemental or compensatory programming — essential to preparing youth for participation in a thriving democracy and inclusive economy.

We must make an explicit commitment to co-designing and aligning our education infrastructure to support 360° | 365 pathways for youth and young adults so they can gain competencies and earn credits through their work and contributions throughout their schools and communities.

Shifting our focus from rebuilding systems to building dynamic learning ECOsystems can set off the cascade of shifts needed to ensure Every Connection is Optimized.

- 1 Reclaim learning as a part of human development.
- 2 Embed academic standards in broader youth success goals.
- 3 Explicitly name the people and places that create anytime/everywhere/never-too-late learning possibilities.

- 4 Acknowledge the multiple systems that support anytime/everywhere/never-too-late learning and intentionally link them with formal education to co-design and strengthen vibrant learning ecosystems.
- 5 Adopt a community action framework that charts a course everyone can contribute to but is too large for any one entity to own.
- 6 Ensure those working closest to youth and families have the time, trust, tools, and resources to create meaningful learning experiences and well-lit pathways

Accelerators for Shared Action and Innovation

Now is the time to build the trust, alignment, and shared stewardship that make learning ecosystems real — through new roles, reimagined systems, and a deep commitment to thriving.

- Affirm the common denominator — a shared purposes centered on a broad set of youth outcomes, advanced through powerful learning experiences.
- Elevate and partner with ecosystem stewards and purpose-built intermediaries.
- Optimize the mesosystem — the relationships closest to youth.
- See and connect the systems — without circumnavigating schools.

The Alliance for Youth Thriving is committed to ensuring that Every Connection is Optimized creating more transformative learning ECOsystems where all youth thrive.

